(c) whether Government propose to call for a compliance report in view of (a) while taking action at (d) above; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (f) In order to publicise the provisions/ benefits of the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 among the employees, the EPF Organisation has decided to bring out/circulate news letters, booklets and press advertisements on Pension Scheme in various languages. A Radio serial 'Naya Zamana Naya Tarana' highlighting benefits of the Pension Scheme and Video spots in English and other local languages have also been approved for broadcasting telecasting. In addition to this, the first anniversary of the Employees Pension Scheme was celebrated throughout the country generating a lot of publicity including one at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. Necessary instructions have been issued to ensure prompt settlement of pension claims so as to remove any reservations about the Scheme among the employees. All the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners have been asked to submit to the CPFC a weekly report about disposal of pension cases and creation of date base for members and their families.

Action-plan for revival of sick PSUs

1714. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the stand of Government in respect of the sick public sector units;

(b) the criterion for declaring a unit sick alongwith the details of total unit-wise losses for the last three years *viz.*, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(c) the measures Government are going to propose to make to prevent such losses and revive the units; and

(d) whether Government have taken a decision that 20% dividend should be paid by PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The stand of the Government in respect of sick Public Sector units is indicated in the Common Minimum Programme of the Government and the Industrial Policy Statement of July' 91.

(b) The criteria for declaring a PSU sick is contained in Section 3 (O) of sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 as amended in 1994. Unitwise losses for the last three years viz 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 is given in statement No. 7B of volume I of Public Enterprises Survey 1994-95 laid in Parliament on 19.7.96.

(c) The measures to prevent losses and to improve the performance of PSUs are enterprise specific. However, some Common measures include, besides referral of sick PSUs to BIFR signing of MOU, periodic performance review by administrative Ministries/Departments, professionlisation of Board, diversification of activity, reduction of surplus manpower, financial restructuring, technology upgradation etc.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Government have decided that all profit making PSUs which are commercial enterprises should declare a minimum dividend on equity of 20% or a minimum dividend pay out of 20% of post tax profits, whichever is higher.

Revival Plan for Burn Standard Ltd.

1715. SHRIMATI CHANDRAKALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a revival plan of Burn Standard Ltd. has been submitted by a consultant;

(b) whether the same has been examined by the operating agency and BIFR;

(c) whether implementation of the revival scheme is awaiting clearance from the promoter i.e. Government of India;

(d) whether BIFR has given two months' time to Government to crystallise its views failing which the company would be sold; and

(e) if so, the reasons for the delay in taking the decision to revive this company and the time frame set by Government to commence the revival process?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The revival scheme of BSCL is under consideration of the Government for finalisation of its views on the revival plan. Since BSCL is multi-unit & multi-product company, thorough examination required for determing its viability was a time consuming process for the consultant. BIFR, however has given two months time for firming-up the Govt.'s views. BIFR will finally examine the revival plan after taking into account the views of all interested parties including the promotors.

Autonomy to PSUs

1716. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to impart more autonomy to PSUs and make them more accountable; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Making PSUs more autonomous and more accountable is a continuous process for which need based steps are taken by the Government from time to time.

Survey to find out SCs/STs/OBCs and Minorities below Poverty Line

1717. **SHRI IQBAL SINGH**: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government to find out the number of SCs, STs, Backward Classes and minorities in the country who are below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (d) As per the information received from the Planning Commission, the State-wise data on the percentage of SCs living below the poverty line is available for 1977-78 and 1983-84, and given in the enclosed statement (*See* below). There are 29.05 million, i.e. 49.87% of the estimated population belonging to STs below the poverty line in 1987-88, but State-wise data is not available.

No such survey has been done in respect of the minorities and the Backward Classes.

Statement

Estimates of persons below Poverty Line (Annexture-I)

Percentage of SC Households to total (Rural & Urban) Households below Poverty Line during 1977-78 and 1983-84

S. No.	States/UTs	Scheduled Caste 1977-78	1983-84
1.	Andhra Pradesh	59.34	51.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—